

TRIAL OF LIEUT. CHARLES WILKES, U. S. N.

NAVAL COURT MARTIAL.

On board the U. S. Ship North Carolina, lying in the New York Harbor.

Reported for The New York Tribune.

THIRTEENTH DAY. WEDNESDAY, Aug. 31. The Court-martial, at the usual hour, and the Judge Advocate read over the minutes of the testimony taken the preceding day.

Mr. Hamilton stated to the Court that Mr. Stewart, clerk of the Court, had been called to the stand by the Judge Advocate, and he now proposed that the Judge Advocate and himself should be empowered to go and take the examination of that witness.

Lieut. Hudson recalled. Q. What were the occupations of the squadron while at Callao?

A. The officers were employed in making observations, and taking to stores.

Q. Was it possible to have convened a Court Martial there without great inconvenience to the public service?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Were the occupations of the squadron in Sydney such that a Court Martial could not have been convened there without great injury to the public service?

A. It would have caused great delay and injury to the public service.

Q. Was Honolulu the first place at which a Court Martial could be convened?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Had not the squadron lost much time, owing to an accident to the Relief while coming round Cape Horn, and did not Lieut. Wilkes always speak of that circumstance with regret as calculated to impede the operations of the squadron?

A. Yes, and he also waited for the Sea Gull.

Q. If the squadron had lost any more time, could you but have waited for the Sea Gull?

A. We could not, we had already lost so much time.

Q. Did you meet Mr. De Quillat after his visit to Lieut. Wilkes on the 6th October, and did he appear excited?

A. I did meet him and he did appear to be much excited.

Q. With the exception of Callao, Sydney, and Honolulu, were the Squadron at any time long enough in company to have held a Court Martial?

A. They were not.

Q. What do you say of Lieut. Wilkes's character in the Squadron?

A. He was one of the most energetic, persevering officers I ever knew of; always attended to his duty by day and night, and far as I have had the opportunity of observing, and my opportunities have been very good.

By the Judge Advocate. How long did the Court Martial sit at Honolulu, and how long did the Squadron remain there after the Court adjourned?

A. I don't know how long it sat, but the Squadron remained there for 10 or 12 days.

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A. I did not.

Q. Were not the clothing, bags of the seamen detained by the natives?

A. Yes, I saw the sailors' shirts on the backs of the natives.

Q. Were not articles of that kind got by the natives in trade?

A. They were at other places. I don't know as to that place.

Q. Do you know that any of the churches or school-houses were burnt at any of the attacks by the Squads?

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Were Royal Hoop, Blake and William Lester deserters at Valparaiso? If so, did you arrest them?

A. Yes, I did arrest them. I don't remember any of the particulars of Hope and Blake; but a few days after the Vincennes sailed from Valparaiso I saw Lester in the street, and he told me that he was a deserter from the Vincennes. He was pushed by me and ran. I ran after him a short distance, but could not catch him. I was obliged to employ a constable to catch him. He was taken a few days after, and I left it in June 1839. Punishment was not frequent until the Expedition got to Rio.

Lieut. Carr recalled. State if John Dannehan and six other men, were not captured at the sailing of the Squadron from Valparaiso.

A. On reference to the log-book I find they received 24 days' light on the 11th of July, at the 11th of July, at Valparaiso. One man received only 12 lashes. It does not say if they were deserters or not. The ship sailed on the 11th. One man was disgraced.

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